

Excerpt from APPROVED MINUTES WATER COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

October 20, 2022, 5:30 p.m.

1. **Allotment Management Program Update and Extension**

Water Conservation Specialist Katie Collins presented on the Allotment Management Program (AMP), which has served commercial customers with undersized allotments by waiving some or all Excess Water Use (EWU) surcharges accrued while implementing a project proposed to save water. Ms. Collins seeks recommendation from the Water Commission for Council to extend the program by three years.

Discussion Highlights

A Commissioner expressed surprise that such large developments didn't consider the cost of maintenance in accordance with their allotments. Another Commissioner answered that for permitting, the quickest way to check the box is to throw down Kentucky bluegrass sod—a cheap option—in order to be permitted, leading to these issues later that exceed allotments. Another Commissioner inquired if the staff had considered simply raising the rate if a development exceeds the allotment exorbitantly in order to discourage spending. Ms. Miller responded that the program also hopes to reduce demands for the overall water supply, as well as those who purchased land and didn't make the initial decision to put down Kentucky bluegrass at the time of development. Another Commissioner desired to see developers incentivized not to put property owners in situations that exceed allotments moving forward. Another Commissioner wondered whether extending it another 3 years makes sense, but Ms. Collins commented that development code only just changed this year, and there are still properties that are dealing with this issue. Mr. Graham added that the program is achieving its goals of reducing overall water usage and saving costs. Another Commissioner inquired whether the program would add participants, especially through the meter change ordinance for properties that are overusing water. Ms. Collins responded that eligibility specifically requires that the estimated landscape water need must exceed an allotment. Some Commissioners commented that this may enable those who had made short-sighted decisions at the time of development, while others expressed that it may act as a reset for property owners that have found themselves with this issue.

Commissioner Tarry moved that the Water Commission recommend City Council approve an ordinance to extend the Allotment Management Program by three years.

Discussion Highlight

Commissioners decided that they wanted to change the number of years of the extension to one year, though that would still allow participants up to three years of waivers.

Commissioner Tarry moved that the Water Commission recommend City Council approve an ordinance to extend the Allotment Management Program by one year.

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Commissioner Kahn seconded the motion.

Vote on the Motion: it passed unanimously, 6-0.